(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 15 September 2005 (15.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2005/086241 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H01L 33/00

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/JP2005/004138

(22) International Filing Date: 3 March 2005 (03.03.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

2004-060585 4 March 2004 (04.03.2004) JP 60/553429 16 March 2004 (16.03.2004) US

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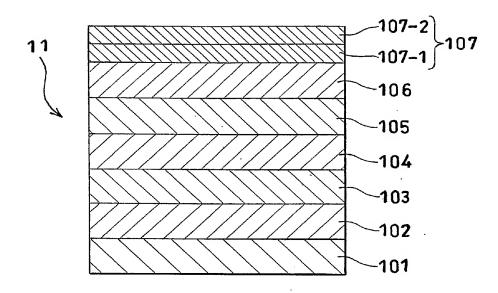
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: GALLIUM NITRIDE-BASED SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A gallium nitride-based semiconductor device has a p-type layer that is a gallium nitride (GaN) compound semi-conductor layer containing a p-type impurity and exhibiting p-type conduction. The p-type layer includes a top portion and an inner portion located under the top portion. The inner portion contains the p-type impurity and, in combination therewith, hydrogen. The top portion includes a region containing a Group III element and a Group V element at a non-stoichiometric atomic ratio.

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European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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